

Message Text

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14

ACTION CU-04

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FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2664

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 0008

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, SEDU, BEXP, OEXP, US, IZ

SUBJ: EDUCATIONAL-SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
AND IRAQI MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

1. IRAQI MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY, ACTING THROUGH AD HOC PRIVATE SECTOR ORGANIZATION (AL HAZEN RESEARCH CENTER, BAGHDAD), HAS SIGNED IMPORTANT CONTRACT WITH UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA IN TUCSON. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1976 PROGRAM WILL SEND 20 IRAQIS TO TUCSON IN FIRST YEAR AND BRING TEN TO TWELVE FACULTY MEMBERS FROM UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA TO IRAQ FOR PERIODS OF UP TO THREE YEARS. INITIALLY, PROGRAM WILL CONCENTRATE ON PHYSICAL SCIENCES BUT HAS SCOPE FOR ENLARGEMENT INTO VIRTUALLY ALL PHASES OF SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPEMENT.

2. FIRST BATCH OF SIX IRAQI EXCHANGEES WILL ENTER US WEDNESDAY JANUARY 7 ON AIR FRANCE FLT 067 ETA HOUSTON 1415 WITH CONNECTING FLIGHT TO TUCSON. USINT LEARNED OF CONTRACT ONLY AT ELEVENTH HOUR AS APPLICANTS APPLIED ON CRASH BASIS FOR VISAS. WE HAVE ISSUED B-1 VISAS TO ALL SIX APPLICANTS WHO ARE CAREER CIVIL SERVANTS AND RESEARCHERS IN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. LEADER OF GROUP IS KAIS ABDUL MAJEED AL-MARZUQ AND NAMES OF OTHER FIVE UNCLASSIFIED

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(ALL MALE) ARE SAMI TOMA HENDOW, SAMI ALI SHAKIR, NADHIR BAHJAT

KOSA, NASRAT AREF RAOUF, AND HAZIM YUIS KASSIM. REQUEST DEPARTMENT ALERT INS HOUSTON TO GROUP'S ARRIVAL AND SUGGEST WARM WELCOME IN VIEW OF PIONEERING NATURE OF CONTRACT WHICH IS RESULT OF PERSONAL INITIATIVE OF MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY (AND MEMBER OF BAATH REGIONAL COMMAND) DR. GHANIM ABDUL JALIL.

3. IN REGARD FUTURE VISA APPLICATIONS BY IRAQI PARTICIPANTS, REQUEST DEPARTMENT URGE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA PREPARE PROPER DOCUMENTATION FOR EXCHANGEES INCLUDING CLEAR INDICATION WHETHER INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED ARE WORKING FOR DEGREES, DOING RESEARCH, ETC.

4. FYI: USINT IS EXPLORING POSSIBILITY THAT SIMILAR CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP MAY BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN MUCH MORE AFFLUENT MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE AND US UNIVERSITIES AND OTHER BODIES. CURRENT CONTRACT IS CERTAINLY IMPORTANT CONCEPTUAL BREAKTHROUGH FOR IRAQIS AND MAY PROVE USEFUL VEHICLE FOR HELPING OPEN IRAQI DEVELOPEMENT PROGRAM IN SYSTEMATIC, PRATICAL MANNER TO US ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE HITHERTO BEEN BAFFLED BY IRAQI BUREAUCRACY AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.
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